



## SOMWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Ekkehard Stade**  
**Director Marine Services**  
**Global Maritime Group**  
**SOMWS Chairman**

Ekkehard joined Global Maritime in 2008, bringing nearly 20 years of active service in the maritime industry. As a Master Mariner and DPO, he holds a Master's Degree in Maritime Operations and Management from City University London, graduating with distinction.

Transitioning to shore-based activities and consultancy, Ekkehard has been involved in high-risk projects in the energy sector, including harsh environment drilling and subsea construction. His expertise extends to a wide range of offshore renewable and infrastructure projects, vessel commissioning, and conversion.

Before his appointment as COO of Global Maritime Group's Marine business, he served as Director of Marine Services and Marine Warranty. In addition to his role on the SOMWS Board of Directors, Ekkehard is an active member of the IMCA Europe and Africa Section Committee.



**Captain Vishal S. Sharma**  
**Managing Director**  
**Sterling Technical Services India Private**  
**Limited**  
**SOMWS Vice Chairman**

Vishal is a founder Director of the Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors (SOMWS) and is one among the panel of SOMWS Screening Committee. He is a Master Mariner and also holds a Diploma in Marine Surveying (London), specializing in Marine Warranty Surveys / Mobile Offshore Units, has over two decades' experience in the Marine and Offshore industry. Having started his MWS career with Falconer Bryan and associates, which culminated as a merged entity in Aqualis Braemar, Vishal then went on to co-found Sterling Technical Services and along the way has handled several Offshore Construction Projects including Platform installations, floatover installations, various subsea installations including risers, pipeline & flexible installations. He has managed several Project Cargo shipments for various Mega Projects globally. Vishal is also experienced in Rig Moves as both MWS and as Rig Mover. He has delivered several technical talks related to Marine Warranty Services in various reputed forums and conferences such as Offshore Technology Conference, Lloyd's etc.

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**James C. Vavasour**  
**Business Stream Director, MWS**  
**Global Maritime**

James Vavasour brings exceptional expertise to Global Maritime as the Business Stream Director for Marine Warranty Survey (MWS) services. A distinguished graduate Naval Architect and a fellow of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects, James is a driving force in the industry.

As the global Business Stream Director for MWS, James oversees marine warranty survey services on a worldwide scale. His role encompasses comprehensive management of technical and procedural evaluations for major offshore installation projects, heavy-lift transports, and wet tows across all of Global Maritime's international operations.

James Vavasour's influence and prominence in the international insurance market are well-known. As the former Chair of the organizing committee for the Houston Marine and Energy Insurance Conference (HMEIC), he led the industry-renowned conference for two years, providing invaluable insurance and legal insights. Additionally, he is a founding member and former Chair of the Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors (SOMWS), highlighting his commitment to excellence and innovation in the field. His role as a liaison to the Joint Natural Resources Committee (JNRC) of Lloyd's further exemplifies his dedication to enhancing industry standards.

Recognized as an accomplished author, James Vavasour is a frequent contributor to the technical press, a regular presenter at major international conferences, and has been



**Captain Stephen Norman**  
**Senior Business Development Manager**  
**DNV**

Stephen is a Master Mariner with 20 years of operational and command experience in the Royal and Merchant Navy prior to moving ashore with Noble Denton marine services, part of DNV. Stephen sits on the Technical Standards Committee for DNV's Marine Warranty Standards and has been working extensively with the assurance of large-scale offshore construction, transportation and decommissioning projects. He is a founder Director and Former Chair of the Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors (SOMWS) as well as previously sitting on the IMCA Renewables Committee.

Passionate on the role of marine warranty in the risk reduction process he has driven strategic engagement for integrated third-party assurance to ensure connected risk is fully understood and mitigations fully realised. More recently this has included extensive work with cyber risk and the use of big data and digitalisation. Stephen has regular liaison with the JNRC regarding Technical Standards.

Stephen is a past Chair of SOMWS.

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showcased as a guest professor/lecturer at international universities. His thought leadership consistently pushes the boundaries of the field, contributing valuable insights that drive progress and inspire advancements.

James is a past Chair of SOMWS.



**John Munnings-Tomes**  
**Chief Risk Engineer**

**Marine & Energy International - The Hartford**

After graduating in 1985, John has spent his career in the oil and gas sector with roles including process design, project management, process operations, and risk consulting.

He has particular interest in lessons learned from the incidents he sees as part of his functional role, and their wider communication to industry, and particularly the importance of process safety culture within an organisation.

A fellow of the IChemE, John is also the IChemE Trustee on The Hazards Forum, and is mindful of the need to share experience and process safety lessons across industries and engineering disciplines. He has been a Registered Safety Professional since 2000.

He has written a number of process safety focussed guidelines for both the Upstream and Downstream Energy Insurance sectors, including co-authoring the Joint Rig Committee (JRC) Rig Location & Move Guidelines and Well Review Guidelines.

John has been a JRC appointed Director of SOMWS since August 2020.



**S. Douglas Devoy**  
**Sr. Marine and Engineering Consultant**

Doug joined MatthewsDaniel in 1981 and is currently a Sr. Marine and Engineering consultant for Global Maritime.

He has held a number of positions within MatthewsDaniel including President of the Americas and Group Marine Director.

A graduate of Texas A&M University in Marine Engineering he also attended Graduate Studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Texas licensed adjuster, and he is a member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

He is the creator of program Preload and Executive Program Preload Risk minimization program for placing jack up rigs on location.

He is a founding member of the Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the organization in 2024. He has published numerous papers at the Offshore Technology Conference and other technical forums.

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**David Ballands**  
**Regional Director**  
**ABL**



**Ian Stewart**  
**Lead Naval Architect**  
**Marine Technical Limits Ltd.**

Ian graduated in 2004 from the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde with a Masters degree in naval architecture and went on to learn the ropes with BAE Systems within Glasgow shipyards during the Royal Navy's Type 45 destroyer program.

2007 saw Ian move into the energy sector, gaining his Chartership during this time and has spent the last 17+ years working on a wide range of projects, including offshore structures, vessel motions, stability, and moorings. Ian has also had extensive experience within the MWS sector, from being the responsible onsite MWS surveyor through to project management of new FPSO field developments, including all subsea construction and transportation activities.

Most recently Ian is heavily involved with structural integrity management of floating offshore installations around the world, supporting owners and operators with their assets. From new build through to decommissioning / re-deployment, performing life extension projects, development of RBIM strategies, and re-deployment studies.

Ian has also written papers and presented at various industry events within the integrity management space.

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**Aureliano Schirripa**  
**Energy Technical Director**  
**ABL**

Aureliano is ABL's Energy Technical Director with 22+ years of multidisciplinary experience and solid track record in the delivery of MWS marine and offshore energy projects. His overall responsibilities include the delivery of loss prevention service and marine engineering consultancy services for complex and multi-billion offshore assets. I.e. design, fabrication, transportation, and installation of new FPSO, offshore energy development projects and offshore decommissioning projects. He has also initiated and successfully launched the new business line for ABL, Certifying and Verification Authority (CVA) and Third Part Inspection (TPI) services.

Aureliano has worked also for Lloyd's Register in Italy as Ship Classification Surveyor providing periodical and occasional ship inspections service for existing. He has worked also as Classification Ship Surveyor for new ship and ship repairs at various shipyards in Italy. He has then moved at LR headquarters in London, where he was providing plan approval service and ship emergency services.

Over those years as loss prevention and MWS of experience, he has gained an in-depth knowledge of projects technical risks, as such he does assess FPSO and O&G project HAZID, HAZOP and HIRA by providing mitigations and actions on how to reduce and control such risks as low as reasonable possible.



**Sujit Viswanathan**  
**DNV**

Sujit is an experienced Master Mariner with over 25 years' experience spanning Marine operations, Superintendence, Risk Management, Marine Warranty Survey, Marine Consultancy including leadership and management roles of multi-disciplined and diverse teams. He started his shore-based career with Maersk as the Fleet Quality Manager in India and Singapore then moving to the UK as a Principal Consultant with a Marine Risk Management company latterly moving to Noble Denton in 2012 now part of DNV. He has worked extensively on Marine Risk management including assurance on operating assets and projects of varying scales with global footprint. He has extensive experience in construction and decommissioning projects and rig moves as MWS. He is the Technical Authority on two disciplines in the Technical Standards committee at DNV and extensively involved in the harmonisation of the legacy DNV and Noble Denton guidelines to the now widely accepted DNV standard for marine operations and marine warranty. He is presently the Global Practice Lead for MWS and Marine Assurance in DNV. Driven by a passion to contribute to the industry he has been actively working with the industry organisations supporting development of good practice and sits as Chair of the IMCA eCMID Committee and Vice -Chair of the IMCA Marine Division Management Committee.

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Aureliano holds a PhD in probabilistic damage stability for Ro-Ro Passenger Ships. These studies led to a proposal at IMO of a maximum survivability index that allow the ship to stay afloat after flooding due to the damage on her hull. His research laid the basis for new concept design on ship internal subdivision and survivability after progressive flooding happen, which later were incorporated within the new SOLAS 2008.

One of Aureliano major assignments includes the appointment as engineer manager for the ever-largest wreck removal project of the “COSTA CONCORDIA” Cruise that sank in Italy in February 2012. He did spend almost 3 years onsite leading the overall project engineering, subsea equipment installation and decommissioning. As well as the environmental site remediation. Other assignments include the Technical investigation on the causation of the JUPITER 1 flotel capsizes. And consultancy for the development of the FPSO integration yard in Lagos, Nigeria.

As a Director of the Society of Offshore Marine Warranty Surveyors (SOMWS), he will works to promote the development of the marine warranty surveying standards among the marine energy and construction communities (shipyards, O&G and renewable). Also, He will assess competences of the new marine warrant surveyors who will attend the increasingly complex, onshore, and offshore, marine operations before awarding them with the status of the SOMWS membership.

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**Sean Hogue**  
**Vice President - Marine Assurance**  
**Baker Marine Solutions**



**Warren Inniss**  
**Associate Director for MWS Projects**  
**Waves Group**

Warren is an experienced Naval Architect and leads the Marine Warranty Survey (MWS) team at Waves Group. He is a Chartered Engineer and Member of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA).

Since earning his master's degree in Ship Science from the University of Southampton in 2008, Warren has built a robust career in marine consultancy. His early work in hydrostatic and hydrodynamic analyses soon expanded to include MWS activities, where he served as project manager and attending surveyor for key projects, such as the transport and installation of oil and gas assets.

Joining Waves Group in 2015, Warren has provided both remote and on-site Naval Architecture support for a variety of marine and offshore projects, including transportation, installation, decommissioning, and salvage operations.

As Associate Director for MWS Projects, Warren oversees a diverse portfolio of global projects, with a strong focus on offshore renewable energy and subsea cables, supporting the highest standards of competence and quality.

**James Miller**  
**Chubb Global Energy**

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